

## **TOWN OF LINCOLN**

### **PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING**

**February 11, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Commission members present were Chairman Kevin Bryson, Paul Hetu, Erin Vaughan, Robert Sylvestre and Gary Stott. Commission members absent from this meeting were Roy Coulombe and David Boyle.

The Commission members reviewed the minutes for the January 14, 2009 meeting. A motion was made by Member Paul Hetu to accept the January 14, 2009 minutes and the motion was seconded by Member Gary Stott.

There have been no Director's Reports for the past six (6) months.

#### **Commissioner's Reports:**

Saylesville – Paul Hetu – No activity within the park.

Lonsdale – Roy Coulombe – No report.

Albion – Erin Vaughan – Everything looks good.

Manville – Robert Sylvestre – The basketball court was plowed; kids were playing basketball. Kids were playing football in the snow. The Manville Firefighters were utilizing the ice for their ice rescue training.

Fairlawn – Gary Stott – The park itself is quiet. The skateboard park continues to get use.

Limerock – David Boyle – No report.

**Quinnville – Kevin Bryson – The ice rink was flooded and is getting a lot of use.**

#### **Old Business:**

**Commission Member Erin Vaughan stated that only a very small portion of the basketball court at Lonsdale was shoveled thus causing kids to play football in the parking lot during recess because there is not enough room for them to play. It's too dangerous for the children to be playing in the parking lot and something really needs to be done about this.**

#### **New Business:**

**John Bacon was present at the meeting to speak to the Commission Members on behalf of the RIYBA; a travel basketball team for Lincoln kids. Presently, the Rhode Island Youth Basketball Association is operating as a private, independent club and Mr. Bacon asked Parks and Recreation Director Paul Prachniak and Assistant Director Andrew Wade via email if the Town of Lincoln would be interested in sponsoring the program. Mr. Bacon feels that “to do it right, he really believes that the program should be run through the Town’s Park and Rec. Department.” Commission members asked Mr. Bacon where practices are currently held and Mr. Bacon stated that at the moment they rent out a gym at a worship center in Smithfield for \$100 an hour.**

**The main goals of the RIYBA are to work together to coordinate a schedule to make it fair, come up with eligibility rules and create uniformity. There is a tournament every weekend throughout the**

state. Mr. Bacon stated that if Lincoln were to sponsor the RIYBA they would not be required to host tournaments but noted that hosting tournaments can be a money maker (for example: concessions) for the Town and some tournaments can last an entire weekend. Mr. Bacon stated that the RIYBA also has to be fully insured and it is very cheap to maintain this.

The Commission members feel it would be a great idea to have Parks and Rec. run the travel basketball team. Basketball is the only sport run through Parks and Rec. anymore so why not add travel basketball as well? Commission members feel that adding travel basketball would only enhance the programs that are already in Parks and Rec. They also stated that this is the only sport in Lincoln that doesn't have a competitive team. Chairman Kevin Bryson stated that he will speak with Parks and Rec. Director Paul Prachniak and see what he has to say about taking on the travel basketball team.

Town Administrator Joseph Almond was present at the meeting to speak with the Commission Members.

Mr. Almond stated that the old backstop poles located at Chet Nichols Field will be removed in the spring.

Mr. Almond stated that the tennis courts need to be sealed and will be completed soon.

Mr. Almond stated that Manville along with Ron McKenna are getting ready to set up a Commission for Manville Park.

Mr. Almond stated that he is meeting with Parks and Recreation Director Paul Prachniak to discuss the budget for laborers, crew, etc.

**Mr. Almond stated that he hopes to get a budget put together within the next week or so. The fee for a child to join the basketball league will have to be raised from \$5.00 to most likely \$25.00 per child in order to make the program cost effective. Mr. Almond stated that he is trying to figure out what these programs cost to run and also needs to remember the goal of Parks and Rec. which is to include the children who cannot afford to pay the fee. He stated that he will have to figure out an adjustment for those children who cannot pay. A new van for Parks and Rec. was also purchased.**

**Mr. Almond stated that the Town is committed to the new lights the Town won from "Friday Night Lights". Mr. Almond stated that it will cost the Town approximately \$50,000 (electrical excavating and service) to install the lights.**

**The Commission Members showed Mr. Almond the email from Mr. Bacon regarding the travel basketball team. Mr. Almond did not really see a difference between travel basketball being sponsored through the Town and the way it is run now through an independent, private club.**

**Mr. Almond asked who would be responsible for paying for the uniforms and referees and the cost to travel to each game.**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Member Paul Hetu and the motion was seconded by Member Robert Sylvestre.**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.**